

*45 Day Review to be headed by the Congressman's former Navy Colleague, Admiral Vernon Clark*

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WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) voiced his strong support for the Pentagon review of the Fort Hood shooting announced by Defense Secretary Robert Gates. The review will be headed by Admiral Vernon Clark, former Chief of Naval Operations and former Secretary of the Army Togo West. According to Secretary Gates, the review will try to find gaps in procedures for identifying service members who could pose threats to others.

"The attack at Fort Hood was a national tragedy, and all conceivable measures must be taken to determine both the root cause of this horrific incident and any policy failures which may have enabled it," said the Congressman. "This examination must be done in a methodical, non-partisan manner, and I am proud to support this effort by the Department of Defense.

"When I commanded Deep Blue, the Navy's anti-terrorism unit established after the September 11 attacks, I was proud to serve under Admiral Clark. I greatly respect his extraordinary work ethic and his integrity. Admiral Clark truly served his country well, putting nation above self. I am confident that he, along with Mr. West, who I know to also be an exceptional leader, will conduct a thorough and revealing investigation. I look forward to reviewing their findings and, if necessary, taking any appropriate actions in my capacity as a legislator to implement them. All appropriate action must be taken to prevent another tragedy like this from ever occurring, and this investigation is a strong start."

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, the Congressman was the first Director of Deep Blue, the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the Global War on Terrorism. He served as President Clintons Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Congressman Sestak is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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